WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for automatically processing electronic mail, comprising:

2   loading an electronic mail message;

3   removing non-textual information from the electronic mail message;

4   locating a first portion from the electronic mail message;

5   generating a first code smaller than the first portion and indicative of the

6   first portion;

7   locating a second portion from the electronic mail message;

8   generating a second code smaller than the second portion and indicative of

9   the second portion; and

10   storing the first code and the second code.

1   2.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   1, wherein the storing the first code and the second code comprises storing the first code

3   and second code to semiconductor memory.

1   3.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   1, wherein the locating the first portion uses a different algorithm than the locating a

3   second portion.

1   4.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   1, further comprising:

3   locating a second through n^{th} portions; and

4   interrupting the locating the second through n^{th} portions when a total

5   number of portions reaches a predetermined count.

1   5.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   1, wherein the non-textual information includes at least one of header information, a

3   subject line, an internet protocol (IP) address, routing information, hypertext markup

4   language information, and an embedded applet.

1   6.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   1, further comprising removing everything from the electronic mail message except a

3   message body.

client-side. Also, the algorithm could be used for any task requiring matching of messages to avoid reaction to repeated messages. For example, political campaigns or tech support personnel could use the above invention to detect multiple e-mails on the same subject. Further still, some embodiments could re-categorize e-mail that is

5 subsequently recognized as unsolicited. The user accounts that received the e-mail before the detection thresholds were exceeded could be reorganized to move the unsolicited e-mail to the bulk mail folder.

In further embodiments, the present invention could be applied to other forms of unwanted electronic solicitation. Unsolicited advertisement shows up in chat

10 rooms and in electronic personal advertisements. The present invention can recognize these submissions as they are made. After a threshold of similar transmissions is surpassed, all other submissions are blocked.

Although the invention is described with reference to specific embodiments thereof, the embodiments are merely illustrative, and not limiting, of the

15 invention, the scope of which is to be determined solely by the appended claims.

1   7.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2 1, further comprising arranging the first code and the second code according to numerical

3 value.

1   8.   A method for automatically processing electronic mail, comprising:

2   loading an electronic mail message;

3   selecting a first number of portions from the electronic mail message;

4   generating a second number of codes from the first number of portions,

5 wherein the first number and the second number are equal;

6   determining if the first number exceeds a predetermined value;

7   selecting a third number of portions from the electronic mail message;

8   generating a fourth number of codes from the third number of portions,

9 wherein the third number and the fourth number are equal; and

10   storing the fourth number of codes.

1   9.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2 8, further comprising removing non-textual information from the electronic mail message.

1   10.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2 9, wherein the non-textual information includes at least one of header information, a

3 subject line, an internet protocol (IP) address, routing information, hypertext markup

4 language information, and an embedded applet.

1   11.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2 8, further comprising interrupting the selecting the third number of portions from the

3 electronic mail message if the third number reaches a predetermined count.

1   12.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2 8, further comprising arranging the fourth number of codes according to numerical value.

1   13.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2 8, wherein each code is smaller than its respective portion.

1   14.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2 8, wherein the generating the second number of codes includes processing the first

3   number of portions with an algorithm selected from the group consisting of a checksum, a

4   cyclic redundancy check, and a hash.

1   15.   A method for automatically processing electronic mail, comprising:

2   loading an electronic mail message;

3   selecting a plurality of portions from the electronic mail message;

4   interrupting the selecting the plurality of portions when the plurality of

5   portions reaches a predetermined count;

6   generating a plurality of codes from the plurality of portions, wherein the

7   number of codes and the number of portions are equal to each other; and

8   storing the plurality of codes.

1   16.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   15, further comprising removing non-textual information from the electronic mail

3   message.

1   17.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   16, wherein the non-textual information includes at least one of header information, a

3   subject line, an internet protocol (IP) address, routing information, hypertext markup

4   language information, and an embedded applet.

1   18.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   15, further comprising:

3   determining if a count of the plurality of portions reaches a predetermined

4   threshold; and

5   selecting a second plurality of portions from the electronic mail message

6   based upon the determining if the count of the plurality of portions reaches the

7 ´   predetermined threshold.

1   19.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   15, further comprising arranging the plurality of codes according to numerical value.

1   20.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   15, wherein each portion consumes more bits than its respective code.

1   21.   The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim

2   15, wherein the generating the plurality of codes includes processing the plurality of

3   portions with an algorithm selected from the group consisting of a checksum, a cyclic

4   redundancy check, and a hash.